THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No final decision has yet been taken for the closure of this line.

(c) Conversion of the line into Broad Gauge could not be considered due to the constraint of resources and unremunerativeness of the proposal.

Developing Sun Temple at Konark as a Tourist Spot

2579. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleaseed to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation and tourism has taken special steps to convert world famous Sun Temple at Konark into an attractive tourist spot with all facilities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount has been provided by Government during current financial year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (c) With a view to developing tourism infrastructure at Konark, the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 30.35 lakhs for construction of a Yatri Niwas an Open Air Theatre and Toilet and Drinking Water facilities during the first three years of the Seventh Plan.

Allocation of Japanese Assistance for Development of Buddhist Piligrims Centre

2580. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 924 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August 1988 and state:

(a) what amount has been allocated for the development of different Buddhist pilgrim centres in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar out of the Rs. 95 crores assistance offered by Japan; and

(b) whether any Master Plan for the development of those Centres has been prepared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Separate amounts as such have not been allocated for different Buddhist pilgrims centres.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Lowering of the Air India fleet utilisation

2581. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts in IA have suggested that fleet utilisation should be brought down from 3100 hrs. per year to 2800 hours per year; if so, what are the details of recommendations made in this regard; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The outgoing Board of Indian Airlines had desired that the utilisation of aircraft should be kept to the optimum level on account of shorter legs to avoid delays and disruptions. With a view to maintain the existing services and in public interest, there is no proposal at present, to reduce the utilisation of B-737 aircraft as reduction in utilisation would result in cancellation of some flights.